

332nd Air Expeditionary Wing

Balad Air Base, Iraq

Red Tail Flyer

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June 18, 2004



Air Force photos/Airman 1st Class Heather Norris

Piling sand

ABOVE: Senior Airman Joshua Peloquin, 332 Combat Aeromedical Support Facility, helps direct a forklift dropping off a pallette of sandbags at tent city last Friday.

RIGHT: Senior Master Sgt. Calvin Jones, 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, and Chief Master Sgt. Ken Huls, 332nd Expeditionary Mission Support Group, fill sandbags last Friday.



Continue the legend, maintain your vigilance...

By Brig. Gen. Marke F. Gibson
Commander, 332nd AEW

It's been a privilege working with some of the finest members in the Air Force over the last year. Several rotations have come and gone, but one thing is consistent – we are serving in the best Air Force ever because of the quality and commitment of our airmen. You pushed the 332nd AEW forward and brought our base here from bare bones to a fully operating forward deployed base in less than three rotations.

You've been patient through difficult times and have put forth plenty of hard work. It's paid off. Despite numerous obstacles, not the least of which is our combat environment, you made the mission happen. Time and time again, you were asked to do what seemed to be impossible tasks, and you overcame them with flying colors.

Thank you for your hard work. I urge you to continue working even harder. You have new hurdles to overcome. The largest and most immediate is the upcoming transition to the Iraqi-led government. This will be challenging – do not let your guard down! It's imperative that you are continuously vigilant and cognizant of

your surroundings. The base will continue to be attacked, and those attacks may be more severe and more often. Do not ignore the alarm codes. They are broadcast for your benefit, but they cannot keep you from harm's way. You need to seek immediate shelter and stay there. This is serious business we're in, and I hate to see anyone get injured, or worse, because of complacency.

Brig. Gen. (select) Blair Hansen will continue where I leave off and take the wing even further toward our goal of becoming the hallmark Air Expeditionary Wing. I know you'll continue to do great things, and I leave here with an easy heart knowing that the mission is in good hands.

Hansen to replace Gibson at Balad

By Staff Sgt. Jason Lake
332nd AEW/PA

The 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing will get a new wing commander later this month during a change of command ceremony June 23.

Air Force officials announced that Brig. Gen. Marke Gibson, 332nd AEW commander, will be replaced by Brig. Gen. Blair Hansen, current commander of the 366th Fighter Wing, at Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho.

General Hansen graduated from the University of Missouri in 1977 and entered the Air Force in 1979. He received his



Brig. Gen. (Sel)
Blair Hansen

commission from Officer Training School in 1980.

Some of his assignments include the U.S./R.O.K. Combined Forces Command in Seoul, South Korea, and readiness assessment duties in the Office of the Secretary of Defense at the Pentagon in Washington.

General Hansen is a command pilot with more than 3,300 flying hours in the F-111 and F-15 aircraft, including more than 100 combat missions. As the new commander, he will command nearly 5,000 people located in various locations throughout Iraq - such as Tallil AB, Kirkuk AB, Baghdad International Airport and the 732nd Expeditionary Mission Support Group, which provides oversight for more than 500 Air Force people who are operationally assigned to U.S. Army units in Iraq.

General Gibson was selected for reassignment as the 354th Fighter Wing Commander at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska.

Airman receives Purple Heart

By Capt. Shellie L. Russell
Public Affairs Officer, 332nd AEW



Senior Airman Kevin Murphy received the Purple Heart for wounds he received here Wednesday following a rocket blast that killed three soldiers and wounded over 20 people. A civil engineer at Yokota Air Base in Japan, he was evacuated by C-130 to Ramstein Air Base in Germany for further medical care. His injuries are not thought to be life threatening.

Brig. Gen. Marke Gibson presented Murphy with his medal while he was being prepared for transportation to the aircraft. The first thing the general asked was if Senior Amn. Murphy was able to speak with his wife Deborah. Murphy said that he had and was pleased. Gibson told him he did a good job, not to worry that he was going to be ok, and thanked him.



PUBLIC HEALTH NOTE

"Public Health Note" is a column that answers frequently asked public health questions. Submit questions to public.health@BLAB.aor-centaf.af.mil.

Q : Someone told me I had the wrong anti-malaria pills. What should I do?

A : At Balad, there are only two pills authorized, chloroquine and doxycycline. These are drugs

Central Command approved to prevent malaria infection in Airmen deployed here. If you arrived here without either pill, or some other medication, please come to the Air Force clinic during sick call, Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. We will check the medications you have and give you the correct pills when available.

Briefly speaking —

DFAC hours

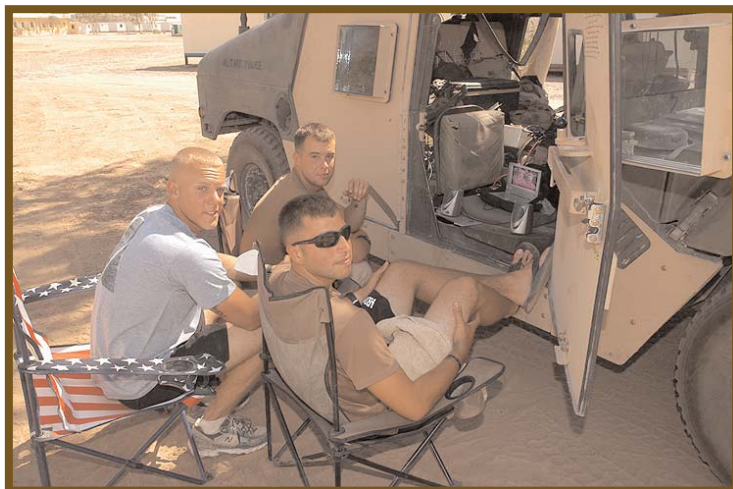
Airmen looking for a hot meal can grab a bite to eat at any of the four dining facilities from 6 to 8:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. (DFAC 2 is open until 2 p.m.) and 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. DFACs 2 and 4 are also open for midnight meals from 11:30 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Honor Guard recruits

The Balad Air Base Honor Guard is looking for dedicated volunteers. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Regena Greene at 458-1150.

Check cashing

Need money? You can cash a check at the finance office for up to \$200 per week and \$400 your final week on station. Hours are Monday through Saturday 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 2 to 5 p.m., except Wednesdays when it's open until 6:30 p.m. for your convenience. Note of caution, checks usually post within 24 hours.



Balad Air Base, Iraq, in April 2003, and after their second extension, they are expected to return home in August.

Meet your neighbor



Staff Sgt. Eric P. Shuttlesworth

Home station: Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico
Unit: 332nd ECS

Arrived in the AOR: 13 May 04

Family: Yes, Wife: Lauren; Daughter: Isabelle; and one on the way

Hobbies: Camping and working on a 1954 Dodge truck
How do I contribute to the mission? I contribute to the ongoing management and sustain part of the deployed tactical and fixed communication equipment.

What is my favorite aspect of this deployment? Being part of a detail that sees our fallen comrades off back to America with dignity and honor.

Besides my family, what do I miss back home? The only thing I miss back home is my wife and daughter...Oh yeah and REEB.

Some comforts of home

With a little time off duty, Sgt. Steven Conley, Sgt. Nicholas Crowell and Spc. Derek Wennerstrand, all from the 94th Military Police Company, Londonderry, N. H., kick back and watch a movie on their portable DVD player in their home away from home - their Humvee. They arrived at

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Darin Overstreet

Powering up



Air Force/Staff Sgt. Jason Lake

Senior Airman Zoltan Keogh, a 332nd Expeditionary Air Mobility Squadron crew chief, connects an air-power source to a C-130 Hercules at Balad Air Base June 9. Airman Keogh is deployed from the 62nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at McChord Air Force Base, Wash. The C-130 Hercules is deployed from the 165th Airlift Wing, Savannah, Georgia Air National Guard.

A Dynamic Duo

By Staff Sgt. Cohen Young
Multimedia Specialist, 332nd AEW

“It is an honor and privilege to meet the guys we’re supporting,” says Lt. Col. James Dixon of the 332nd Expeditionary Fighter Squadron. Dixon is speaking about the members of the Army HHC 520th Infantry, which operates the Stryker armored attack vehicle. The infantry unit coordinates with the 332nd EFS, which provides them with Close Air Support. The two units met recently face to face, which enabled them to learn more about each other.

An F-16 pilot with the 332nd EFS, 1st Lt. Teneyek LaTourette explains the importance of the meeting as helping provide a visual reference to better enable recognition from 15,000 ft. at 400 knots. “It’s also fun just to see the Stryker’s capabilities and technology,” LaTourette adds.

When the 520th participates in a convoy, the 332nd EFS provides situational awareness through the use of SATCOM radios. Senior Airman Andrew Pulido, a joint terminal air controller or JTAC, with the 114th Calvary, 5th ASOS, Ft. Lewis, Wash., is a key link in this operation because he relays messages between the F-16 pilots and the Stryker during convoys, thus assuring good communication and productivity. Pulido’s job is to communicate with the pilots overhead and call in CAS when necessary. He is assigned to the Army unit and rides along with them on the convoys. “Since the air power has arrived, firefights have drastically decreased in frequency and severity,” Pulido adds, “The enemy backs off when they hear the jets in the area. They know what can happen if they don’t.”



Photo by SSgt Cohen A. Young

A group photo of the Rocky Mountain Coalition and Army Stryker operators. The Coalition is comprised of Guard members from Colorado, Montana and New Mexico.



Dr. Reports from the Field

By Tech. Sgt. Darin Overstreet
Public Affairs Specialist, 332nd AEW

Keeping in touch with family and friends back home is a high priority for all of our troops deployed across the world, but Lieutenant Colonel John Torres, or Dr. John as he's known around Colorado, goes a step further.

When at home in Colorado, in addition to being an emergency room doctor, Torres conducts a medical segment three times a week for Good Day Colorado, a morning news program on Denver's KDVR, Fox 31. Dr.

Torres explained, "The main idea behind the segments are to keep people and their families healthy, both physically and mentally." But, being a flight surgeon for the Colorado Air National Guard's 140th Wing based out of Buckley Air Force Base, Aurora, Colo., he has found himself on a 30-day tour of duty at Balad Air Base, Iraq, where the 140th Wing has deployed with members of the Montana and New Mexico Air National Guard, calling themselves the Rocky Mountain Coalition, to establish the first fighter squadron on Balad Air Base. "We're here to aide coalition forces in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom," Torres adds, "Our unit provides combat air power to keep the ground troops safe and supply routes open."

In order to keep in touch with Colorado citizens who have become accustomed to his quick wit and plain language medical reports, he has continued to report back with telephone interviews a couple times a week. Torres said, "The viewers have really appreciated the personal touch and the local community enjoys hearing about how their loved ones are doing."

With all of the media coverage of Iraq and surrounding regions, Torres feels it's important to give an Airman's view. Torres stated, "Not everything that happens in Iraq is bad news. It's refreshing to get out information about the good things we're doing, such as establishing schools, setting up medical clinics, providing security forces and much more. All of the Iraqi people I've come in contact with are supportive of the Coalition troops and are happy to have us here helping them rebuild their country."

Lt. Col. Torres and many of his comrades are expected to return home at the end of June, where their families and fellow Colorado citizens will certainly greet them with open arms and much anticipation.

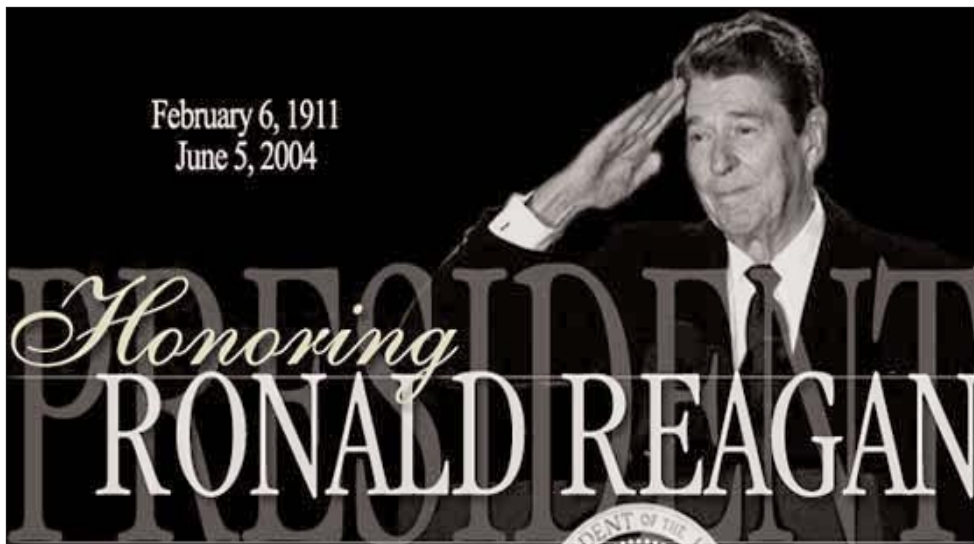
Got a story?

Know someone in your unit that has a unique story/hobby, or are you interested in writing a story?

Call The Red Tail Flyer at 458-1064 or e-mail:

redtailflyer@blab.af.mil





Hope Was Ronald Reagan's Secret Weapon

Commentary by Terri Lukach
*Special to American Forces
Press Service*

WASHINGTON, June 11, 2004
-- Even in the post-Sept. 11 era, in which the possibility of a spontaneous act of terrorism is never far from our thoughts, it is hard for anyone who had not lived through

the height of the Cold War to imagine what a strain communism and the specter of mutually assured destruction added to daily life.

Even more than the idea of a breakdown in relations between the United States and the Soviet Union that could lead to a first strike, and thus nuclear annihilation, was the complete lack of hope that the situation would ever be different. I clearly remember the certainty with which I believed I would not live to see the day when communism collapsed or the Soviet Union did not exist, and neither would my children. It was the primary reason I became involved in politics, and thought the work the most important one could do.

Fortunately for the nation and the world, Ronald Reagan had the vision to see what few, if any, others could discern: the total bankruptcy of the communist system, how close it actually was to collapsing, and what was required to push it over the edge. In achieving his goal of relegating communism to "the ash heap of history," Ronald Reagan not only removed the specter of the unthinkable from our lives and our futures, but gave us a gift of inestimable value: the gift of hope.

Hope was Ronald Reagan's secret weapon. He gave it to the young and the old, to the worn-out and the weary, to the disenfranchised and the disillusioned. He gave it to the people of our country and of every country, to leaders and little people and everyone in between. And by restoring the hope of all Americans, he restored the greatness of America, because hope is the foundation of freedom.

On June 5, 2004, a great and gallant leader passed from our midst, and the whole world is diminished by his loss. At annual gatherings of Reagan staff, the president used to remind us that we came to Washington not to have a job, but to do a job. Each of us tried to live up to the confidence he placed in us, and to the responsibility he laid on our shoulders. One thing is for certain: he lived up to his. As he said in his farewell address to the nation, "We weren't just marking time. We made a difference."

An old hymn based on a passage from the Apostle Paul has a stanza that reads:

"We have run the race, We have won the fight,
We have stood against the darkness of the night,
We have won the race And seen God's face, And built a kingdom of love."

Ronald Reagan stood against the darkness of communism. He won the fight for freedom and brought down what he rightly termed the "Evil Empire." He won the race and, by now, has met God face to face. As for a kingdom of love, well, we've seen a glimpse of that this week from coast to coast. May he rest in peace.

(Terri Lukach is speechwriter for the secretary of defense and a former staff assistant to President Reagan for public liaison.)

SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES

By Maj. Larry Gurgainous

Commander, 46th ERS, Predator

I speak for most Airmen when I say that our experiences here at Balad are unlike any other in our careers. Of all the places you have been assigned or deployed to, most likely, none have been like this. The new era of jointness puts us in the exact same work and living environment as our sister services. Sure some Airmen have spent a lot of time with the Army and Navy by the very nature of their jobs, but not most of us. When we're altogether, however, we share experiences that seem to mold us into one fighting team.

Speaking of experiences, we've all had the opportunity to see and do things that we will never have the chance to see and do when working stateside. I can honestly say that prior to arriving at Balad, I've never been briefed on the hazard of driving too closely behind a tank. Side note: driving too closely behind a tank will cover your vehicle with soot and is hot enough to roast the paint off. For most of us, we've had our first experience at hearing and seeing real hostile fire. How about living in body armor for 2 months and the hazards that come with it? I know a guy who was running with his body armor and not realizing how top heavy it made him, fell and broke his arm. How about those who work on the flightline where helos operate and see the skies darken from the dust clouds they produce. Driving too closely to those areas certainly could cause an accident.

I bet each one of you can think of a hundred things you learned since you've been here. There are lessons that all the readiness training in the world couldn't prepare you for. Those are all things you won't experience in your normal day-to-day Air Force life but these lessons are both real and relevant. For many of us, these lessons will be etched in our minds for the rest of our lives. But, more importantly, how do we pass these lessons on to those who come to replace us? I would hate to hear that every 90 days, a car gets burned behind a tank, someone gets hurt running in body armor, or someone wrecks a car in a dust cloud from a helo.

We all need to take the time to pass along the knowledge we have gained from our experiences here to those new Airmen who come to serve at Balad. Take the time to jot down those lessons so that others will benefit from them. Put them in passdown logs or a quick slideshow for newcomers. I'm sure you will find that the folks here to replace you will be very receptive. It's kind of like never turning down someone who offers you a breath mint, there is a deeper meaning behind it. Keep it short, simple, and to the point.

This is a very unique environment full of great experiences as well as hazards. Take the time to teach others all the unique knowledge you have gained here at Balad. Show them how you duplicate the creature comforts of home. Ensure they know the hazards they need to avoid. Those things you do as simply a part of a way of life in this expeditionary environment.

So, be proud of your service and experiences here and ensure that knowledge is preserved. And, someday you will be in your rocking chair with your grandkids on your knee. And they will ask you what you did during the great Iraq war. You won't have to say, "Well, I shoveled **** in Louisiana."



T-Town Chapel Schedule

Sundays:

Protestant Religious Education, 8 a.m.
Protestant Worship, 10:30 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.
Catholic Mass, 10:30 a.m.
LDS Sacrament meeting, 7 p.m.
LDS S.S., 8 p.m.

Tuesdays:

Catholic Mass, 7 p.m.
Catholic Discussion Group, 8 p.m.

Wednesdays:

Purpose Driven Life, 8 p.m.

Thursdays:

LDS Study Group, 7 p.m.

Fridays:

Catholic Mass, 5:30 p.m.
Women's Fellowship, 7 p.m.

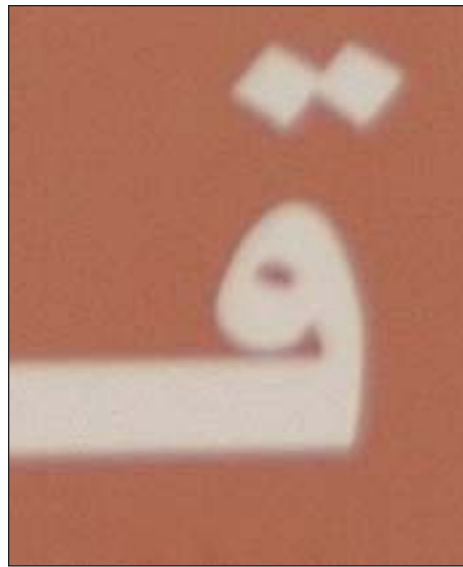
Saturdays:

Protestant Communion, 7 p.m.

Daily:

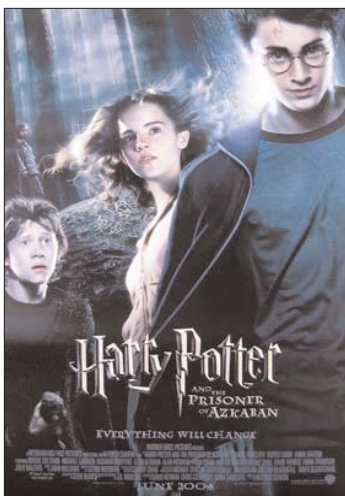
Band of Brothers (Men's Fellowship), 8:30 a.m.

Know what this is?



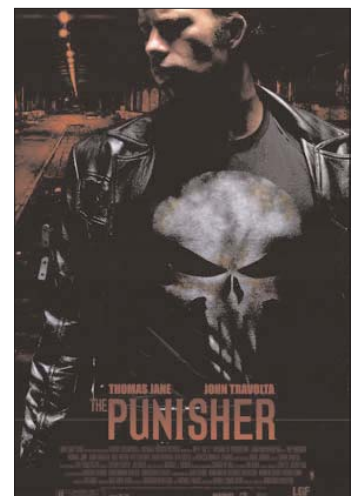
Each week, the Red Tail Flyer staff will take a photo from around Balad. If you can identify the object or item, shoot us an e-mail at redtailflyer@blab.aor-centaf.af.mil with *identify this* in the subject block. The person who sends in the correct answer first wins a prize and will get their name printed in this publication. Congratulations to Airman 1st Class Arthur Rodriguez 332nd ECS, who correctly identified last week's scotch tape dispenser.

Sustainer Movie Schedule



Movie schedule is subject to change

Today 3 p.m. - Connie and Carla	6 p.m. - Harry Potter 3	Carla
6 p.m. - The Punisher	9 p.m. - The Punisher	Wednesday 3 p.m. - The Girl Next Door
9 p.m. - Harry Potter 3	Monday 3 p.m. - The Punisher	6 p.m. - Day After Tomorrow
Saturday 3 p.m. - Harry Potter 3	6 p.m. - Connie & Carla	9 p.m. - Hellboy
6 p.m. - The Whole Ten Yards	9 p.m. - Johnson Family Vacation	Thursday 3 p.m. - Jersey Girl
9 p.m. - Johnson Family Vacation	Tuesday 3 p.m. - Harry Potter 3	6 p.m. - Hellboy
Sunday 3 p.m. - Johnson Family Vacation	6 p.m. - The Punisher	9 p.m. - Day After Tomorrow
	9 p.m. - Connie and	



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All photos are Air Force photos, unless otherwise indicated.

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